

Amendment to the Claims

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior listings, and versions, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining the antithrombin III (AT) content in a sample that may contain one or more pharmaceutical compounds that inhibit thrombin, the method comprising:

(a) providing a reaction mixture by contacting the sample with a first reagent R1 comprising thrombin, under conditions wherein the thrombin essentially does not interact with AT but interacts with the one or more pharmaceutical compounds that inhibit thrombin, if present,

(b) adding to the reaction mixture a second reagent R2 comprising a chromogenic substrate which is a peptide substrate for thrombin, and determining the amount of free thrombin not interacting with AT,

(c) changing the conditions of the reaction mixture by adding to the reaction mixture a third reagent R3 comprising heparin such that thrombin interacts with AT,

(d) conducting a second determination of the amount of free thrombin not interacting with AT in the reaction mixture, wherein the determination comprises using the reagent R2, and

(e) determining the AT content in the sample from the difference between the first and second determinations of free thrombin not interacting with AT, and

(f) determining the AT content of said sample from said difference determined in step (e).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the AT binding partner is factor Xa.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the second reagent R2 comprises an antibody for determining the free AT binding partner.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first reagent R1 further comprises an antagonist for ~~an accelerator of the interaction between AT and thrombin heparin.~~
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the first reagent R1 comprises polybrene hexadimethrine bromide.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the third reagent R3 further comprises additional thrombin.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the said first and/or second determination of thrombin comprises a kinetic determination.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)